

Name _____

Can the Bill of Rights Be Changed or Amended?

Short Answer Key

1. Amendments can be proposed by a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of state legislatures.
2. The purpose of the ratification step is to ensure that there is broad consensus in favor of the proposed amendment among the states.
3. Amending the Bill of Rights is rare due to the fundamental importance of these rights in American society and the significant national consensus required for any changes.
4. (Answers may vary. Example: The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and had a profound impact on ending the institution of slavery in the United States.)
5. The protection of rights is fundamental to American democracy because it ensures that individuals have the freedom to express themselves, participate in government, and be treated fairly under the law.

